

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

PH 0683779
FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED SEP 7 1978

DATE ENTERED DEC 18 1978

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Tuolumne Meadows Ranger Stations and Rest Rooms

AND/OR COMMON Buildings 3000, 3005, 3021, 3022, and 3023

Tuolumne Meadows Contact Stations and Comfort Stations or Rest Rooms

2 LOCATION

(Tuolumne Meadows, Yosemite National Park, California)

STREET & NUMBER

Not applicable

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Not applicable

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF Lee Vining

Fourteenth

STATE

California

CODE

06

COUNTY

Tuolumne

CODE

109

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**

DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP☒ PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS☒ OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE☒ YES: RESTRICTED☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

☒ PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

National Park Service, Western Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER

450 Golden Gate Avenue, Box 36063

CITY, TOWN

San Francisco

VICINITY OF

STATE

California

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Administration Building, National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER

Box 577

CITY, TOWN

Yosemite Village, Yosemite National Park, California

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

In Tuolumne Meadows south of the main highway are a number of structures of rustic architectural styles of which five are of interest here. These include an old ranger station/entrance station (building 3000) and a newer ranger station or visitor contact station (building 3005) as well as three public rest rooms or comfort stations of identical design (buildings 3021, 3022 and 3023).

Building 3000 was the original entrance station/ranger station on the Tioga Pass road. It was erected in 1924 at a cost of \$1,500. It is a single storey structure enclosing 525 square feet. The building is "L" shaped, although the foot of the "L" extends only three feet at the back. Not counting that extension, which encloses a shower and part of a back porch, the building is 14½ by 39 feet in size, including an open porch 6 feet deep. Inside there are basically three rooms, in sequence front to rear an office, a bedroom, and the kitchen, in addition to which there are the aforementioned shower and back porch. The building is basically a peeled log frame with vertical plank infilling, and a number of double width horizontal 6-lite windows. It has a gable roof with long ridgepole and rafters, and angular log porch roof braces rather than vertical posts. The building stands on the north edge of the old road through Tuolumne Meadows several hundred yards east of the creek, but this road is now a dead end entrance to the maintenance area and lodge, having been bypassed by the newer Tioga Pass road a short distance up the hillside to the north. The building is stained dark brown and blends well with the grove of conifers in which it stands.

Building 3005, which in part replaced the function of building 3000, stands near the entrance to the Tuolumne Meadows Campground on the south side of the highway through Tuolumne Meadows a short distance west of the stream. It is predominately of rather large stone construction, with wood frame infill and front and rear and a gently pitched gable roof with wood shingle finish. It is roughly 18 by 31 feet, including the open porch the full width of the front which is about 6 feet deep. The porch roof is supported on a pair of stone piers at the outside corners, with a pair of vertical square milled posts spaced evenly in the intervening distance between the piers. In the interior, there is a lobby with a fine stone fireplace at the west end whose stone chimney extends outside above the end of the gable roof. Left of the entrance door, there is a counter which separates the lobby from an office space. Originally, an office and toilet were partitioned into separate rooms at the east end of the building, but this now is open except for the counter.

Buildings 3021, 3022 and 3023 are public rest rooms all of the same design. They are roughly 16 by 28 feet in interior dimensions. In the center is a small storage room, entered from one side. One end has a men's room, entered from the end, and the other has a women's rest room. The only difference between the ends is the substitution of a urinal for some of the toilets in the men's room, while the women's room has a row of five toilet stalls. The building consists of a mixture of stone and wood frame construction. Large stone comprises massive corner piers as well as foundations and walls to a height of a couple of feet between the piers; the remainder of the space between piers is filled with wood frame casement windows (9 lites each) or wood panels on the side, as well as end doors and one side door. The roof is a clipped gable or "jerkinhead" with a patterned shingle finish. These and building 3005 are in a conifer forest of predominately small trees on very rocky soil, the scene dominated by granite peaks on the horizon.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1924 - present BUILDER/ARCHITECT National Park Service

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Tuolumne Meadows Ranger Stations and rustic Comfort Stations are of local architectural significance due to their rustic design, of local historical significance in the "social/humanitarian" category through the association of all but one with CCC labor in their construction, and of local historical significance in conservation representing a micro-cosm of the National Park Service's efforts to provide in as environmentally harmonious a form as possible such development as was necessary in this national park area.

Building 3000 was built in 1924 to serve as a ranger station, visitor contact station and entrance station for the eastern entrance to Yosemite National Park over Tioga Pass. A wood frame building in a setting of conifer forest at the edge of Tuolumne Meadows, its peeled log frame and rafters and dark brown color served to blend with its environment. When its entrance station function was removed by construction in 1931 of a new stone entrance station at the summit of Tioga Pass some miles to the east, and its visitor contact station function was removed by construction of building 3005 on the other side of the stream in 1936, the old building continued to serve as a ranger residence and office, which use it still serves today.

Building 3005 was erected in 1936 west of the stream and at the entrance of the Tuolumne Meadows Campground. It replaced a part of the original function of building 3000. Architecturally it was quite different. The new ranger station was predominately of battered stone walls, with some wood frame infill in front and rear. The ranger station at Tioga Pass built in 1931 had set a precedent for the use of stone in all of the subsequent rustic buildings which would be constructed in Tuolumne Meadows Campground, with the exception of one restroom, and the stone was most appropriate in a setting of small conifers growing in rocky, boulder-strewn ground, dominated by granite peaks on the horizon.

Buildings 3021, 3022 and 3023, built in 1934, at the same time as building 3203 on Tioga Pass, were comfort stations or rest rooms at three locations in the Tuolumne Meadows Campground; they reflect a fairly highly stylized phase of "rustic" design. Rustic architecture was intended to give the impression of construction involving pioneer methods and tools, using native materials and natural exterior colors to blend and harmonize with the surrounding environment. Nothing could be more natural than the color and texture of native stone used in these buildings, and the wooden members, stained for the most part a dark brown, blended equally well with the bark of some of the conifers. It should be noted that building 3203 at Tioga Pass is a tiny, miniature version of the three comfort stations at Tuolumne Meadows (and subject to separate nomination).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

National Park Service Building Files, Division of Cultural Resource Management, Western Regional Office, San Francisco, California
Monthly Reports of the Acting Resident Landscape Architect, Yosemite National Park, to the Chief Architect, for 1934
Tweed, William, Henry Law and Laura Soulliere, National Park Service Rustic Architecture, 1916 - 1942. (San Francisco: National Park Service Western Regional Office, 1977)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .057438

UTM REFERENCES

875			390		
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A 11	292390	4194875	B 11	292940	4194300
C 11	293330	4194050	D 11	292575	4194050

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary consists of an individual rectangle around each of the five buildings in this nomination, each rectangle extending five feet beyond the outermost edge of the walls of each building.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Gordon Chappell

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service, Western Region

STREET & NUMBER

450 Golden Gate Avenue, Box 36063

CITY OR TOWN

San Francisco

DATE

October 28, 1977

TELEPHONE

(415) 556-4165

STATE

California (94102)

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES ☒

NO ☐

NONE ☐

JUN 30 1978

Knox McEllon
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

Acting Asst. Dir., Cultural Resources

DATE

8/24/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Charles H. Hays
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

W. Ray Price

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

12-18-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

12-18-78

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 2

UTM References:

D 11 2/93/940 41/94/600

Zone Easting Northing

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SEP 7 1978
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REGISTER

